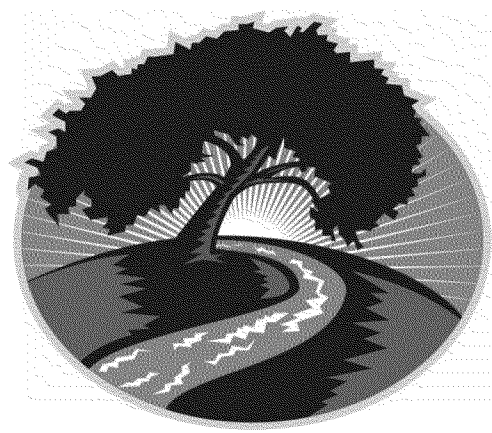


Southeastern Pennsylvania Nutrient Coalition



June 6, 2017

VIA EMAIL & FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL

Senator Pat Toomey
Senator Bob Casey
Congressman Ryan Costello
Congressman Pat Meehan
Congressman Bill Shuster
Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick
Congressman Brendan Boyle

RE: Request for Congressional Support for Peer Review of EPA Region 3's Nutrient Endpoint Report

Dear Senators and Congressmen:

On behalf of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Nutrient Coalition (including Telford Borough, Telford Borough Authority, Lower Salford Township Authority, Lower Salford Township, Souderton Borough, Franconia Township, Franconia Sewer Authority, Abington Township, Newtown Township, Hatfield Township and Westchester), we are seeking support of our Coalition's request to have EPA conduct an independent peer review of a nutrient endpoint report that EPA is using to impose stringent nutrient reduction mandates throughout eastern Pennsylvania. *See*, Peer Review Request. As discussed in the Coalition's peer review request, this document is single-handedly misallocating hundreds of millions of dollars of municipal expenditures throughout southeastern Pennsylvania. We are asking your help to avoid this waste of limited state resources.

While our communities are more than willing to pay for watershed improvement efforts that will produce meaningful environmental benefits where mandated by state or federal law, our reviews have determined that (1) the nutrient reductions driven by this document will be meaningless in improving the conditions in our local streams/creeks, and (2) less costly canopy restoration is the only way to eliminate the excess periphyton growth. Unfortunately, despite numerous requests based on these findings, EPA has been unwilling to withdraw its nutrient reduction mandates that are based on this nutrient endpoint report.

Accordingly, the requested peer review is the only way – aside from litigation – that the Agency will modify its position. For instance, in 2009, a similar Pennsylvania Congressionally-supported peer review request triggered an independent peer review by EPA's Science Advisory Board. That action proved to be instrumental in getting the Agency to withdraw/revise a

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similarly flawed nutrient guidance document, following the Science Advisory Board's conclusion that EPA's approach was not scientifically defensible. While we anticipate a similar result if an independent peer review were to be granted for this document, we are, nonetheless, willing to live with the results of an independent review, regardless of the outcome.

Therefore, we respectfully request your offices support for this peer review request. Thank you for any assistance you can provide that will assure Pennsylvania's resources are wisely expended.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Fournier
on behalf of the Southeast Pennsylvania
Nutrient Coalition

Enclosure